

Filed for intro on 02/01/95  
House Bill \_\_\_\_\_  
By \_\_\_\_\_

Senate Bill No.SB0228  
By Dixon

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, Chapter 22, Part 1, relative to professional counselors.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-104, is amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of subdivision four (4) and by adding new subdivisions six (6) and seven (7) thereto, as follows:

(6) Has filed a Statement of Professional Intent with the board which documents the applicant's training and experience; and

(7) Has furnished a copy of a professional disclosure statement to client(s) prior to charging or receiving remuneration for professional counseling services.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-108(a), is amended by redesignating the existing subsection (a) as subdivision (a)(1) and by adding the following language to be designated as subdivision (a) (2):

(2) Each license or certificate holder shall submit verification of an updated Statement of Professional Intent reflecting any change in emphasis and/or additional training.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-22-115, is amended by adding the appropriately designated subdivisions as follows:

( ) “Appraisal activities” mean the selection, administration, scoring, and interpretation of instruments designed to evaluate or assess a client’s current level of functioning. Consistent with each counselor’s formal education and training, licensed or certified professional counselors may administer instruments which measure and/or diagnose problems and/or dysfunctions within the context of human growth and development as part of the counseling process or in the development of a client treatment plan.

( ) “Practice of Counseling” means rendering to individuals, couples, families, groups or organizations a service that integrates a wellness, pathology, and multicultural model of human behavior. This model applies a combination of mental health, counseling, and human development principles and procedures to help clients achieve effective mental and emotional development and adjustment throughout the life span. In addition, the practice of counseling also includes the diagnostic description and treatment of mental disorders or disabilities within the range of the professional’s preparation. “Diagnose and treat” shall not be construed to permit the performance of any act which licensed professional counselors are not educated and trained to perform. Verification of the applicant’s eligibility to diagnose and treat mental disorders and disabilities shall be determined by the board based on the applicant’s education and training as shown in the Statement of Professional Intent.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the act which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to that end the provisions of this act are declared to severable.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect July 1, 1995, the public welfare requiring it.